President: Dan Butler-Ehle
V.P.: Mike Garlick
Treasurer: Mike Garlick
Secretary: Tim Eisele

Riot Act

"We're the people you hear about on the 10 o'clock news."

Number 1
Volume 14
December 1993

Here We Go...

Andy Kaiser

Well, this is it. Three first year students' attempt to recreate the glory of what once was. The attempt to recreate... *The Riot Act*. Now, I won't say this is going to be fun. I won't say it will be easy. There will be sacrifices involved here. Sacrifices that we'll have to make. Like learning how to use Pagemaker, for one thing. It took me a day just to get the words "Riot Act" on the top of this page. But, I'm learning.

So, What can you expect? Well, seeing as how this is PFRC's first *Riot Act* in three years, expect trial and error. If you find a word misspelled anywhere in this newsletter, complain to **Andy Kaiser**. If you think the articles could stand a little work, please send any lynch mobs to **Sandy Hubscher** and **Bob Kalogerakos**. It's their fault.

But overall, I'm pretty confident this whole Riot Act thing will turn out well, and become yet again another PFRC tradition. Or we could get bored and trash the idea in a month. We'll see...

From Bob to You

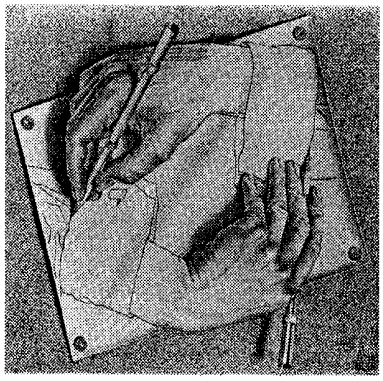
Bob Kalogerakos

As editors of this, the latest edition of the *Riot Act*, we would like to welcome you to what we prefer to think of a 'a worthy effort' than as what you are maybe thinking. In the minimal research we have done, it is clear that producing a *Riot Act* on a regular basis has been, at least, an impossible task. Of course being freshman and first-year transfer students (Bob is NOT a freshman), we know nothing of the circumstances that have lead to PFRC's monthly newsletter coming out yearly. However, in our youthful ambition, we hope to make the *Riot Act* a more common occurrence. Some of us dream of a monthly newsletter, some of a quarterly newsletter. Which dream will come true will depend not only on our skill to find replacements when we leave, but also on the PFRC populous in general. We are forever searching for material to put in the *Riot Act*, from the profound to the down-right-silly, the latter being preferred. With your effort, as well as our own, we hope to turn this hack-rag into something we wouldn't be ashamed to show off at NANOCON.

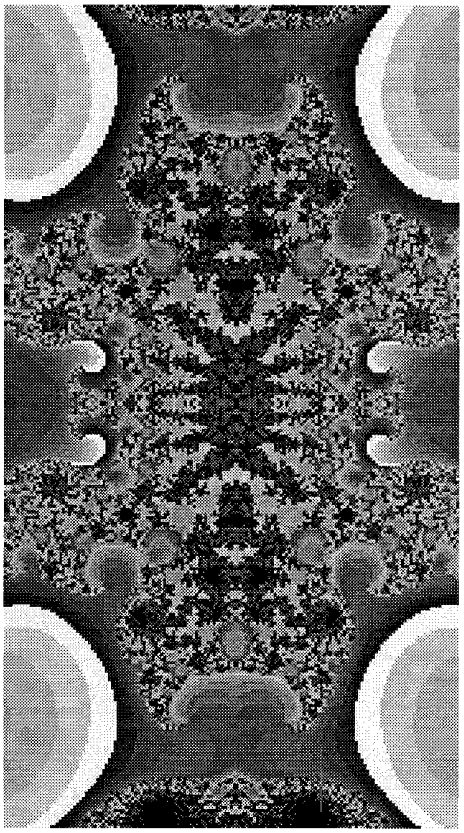
Sandy's Stuff

Sandy Hubscher

PFRC has to have been the greatest surprise for me this year at college. Never could I have imagined a group that contained the best of the silliest at MTU. When I arrived at the organizations fair during a generally dry and boring freshman orientation, I was surprised to see a Sci-Fi and Fantasy club. I was even more surprised when a man with a demented smile on his face turned on a Tesla coil to frighten the unsuspecting freshman wandering by. Boy, that was just the beginning of it all. Well, I'll spare everyone my reminiscing about becoming a PFRCer. Here I am, though, one quarter later, sitting writing a column for a newsletter instead of doing my Fortran homework. PFRC has definitely been an experience to remember, and it's all just beginning.....



For all you math lovers, here's a pretty nice fractal...
For all you editors, here's a pretty slick space filler...



Top Ten Bumperstickers on the U.S.S Enterprise

10. "Our other starship separates into three pieces!"
9. "One photon torpedo can ruin your whole day... Think about it."
8. "HONK if you've slept with Commander Riker!"
7. "Guns don't kill people... Class 2 Phasers do!"
6. "Zero to Warp 9.7 in 13 seconds!"
5. "CAUTION... We have a trigger happy Klingon at tactical."
4. "If you can read this... Don't you think you're a wee bit too close?"
3. "Have you hugged a Ferengi today?"
2. "We brake for cubes!"
1. "Wesley On Board!"

Conport for Nanocon

Bob Kalogerakos

Once again, plans are already being made for Nanocon . As for Nanocon (PFRC's own con), planning is starting to get underway. This year, Nanocon will be cosponsored by PFRC and HARO, Michigan Tech's Anime Society, and the Gamers Club. Invitations have also been informally given to the Society for Creative Anachronisms and Alternatives Unlimited to see if they wish to participate, but neither have given a response. Our best prospect for Guest of Honor is author **Jodi Lynn Nigh**. Mrs. Nigh is from the Chicago area, and has agreed to come to Nanocon if we can provide her transportation. The author of several books involving Irish themes, she has also inspired the working theme for this year- "Soylent Green is made of Leprechauns, It's Leprechauns!" Suggestions are still being taken, but as PRFC has access to a large amount of green coloring, it may become the accepted theme. The refreshments tray should be a sight this year.

Already, ideas are flying for events from PFRC members. As we do have 4 months before Nanocon, nothing is written in concrete. However, the idea has been raised that we sponsor a mock science fair. Projects will range from the completely fictional to the very bizarre. Hopefully we can come up with a few ideas and get rolling on these projects before Nanocon.

"I am Bill Clinton of Borg.
You will be taximilated."

From Garlick Wrestling to Star Trek

Sandy Hubscher

On October 30, **Dan Butler** held the annual PFRC Halloween party at his place. It began seemingly innocent: Star Trek, apple pie, candy, a ukulele. But something happened.

Somewhere between Star Trek and MST3K's "The Brain That Wouldn't Die," strange occurrences began to take place. I, the author, cannot remember exactly how things got started, but I can certainly remember the events that followed. Male PFRCers somehow banded and attacked female members, namely Denise, Dale, and me. Their strategy was simple: tickle until loss of consciousness, repeat. But just like the decapitated woman with her head in the pan on MST3K, we women did not give up so easily. **Mike Garlick** received the brunt of the women's counter-offensive and at the time was unable to comment on the brawl because of the author's well-timed head locks. Soon, the men were on the retreat, but by this time everyone was generally so wound-up, we were bouncing around between screams from the body-less woman. By the way, the author would like to thank Hestor's patience in this matter, she remained heroically calm while 10 or so people turned her living room into a wrestlemania-fest. The evening was also well rounded by video games, darts, small musical instruments, back-rub circles, and Dan's personal stock. Overall this party was a real hum-dinger and we'd like to thank Dan for hosting yet another great one.

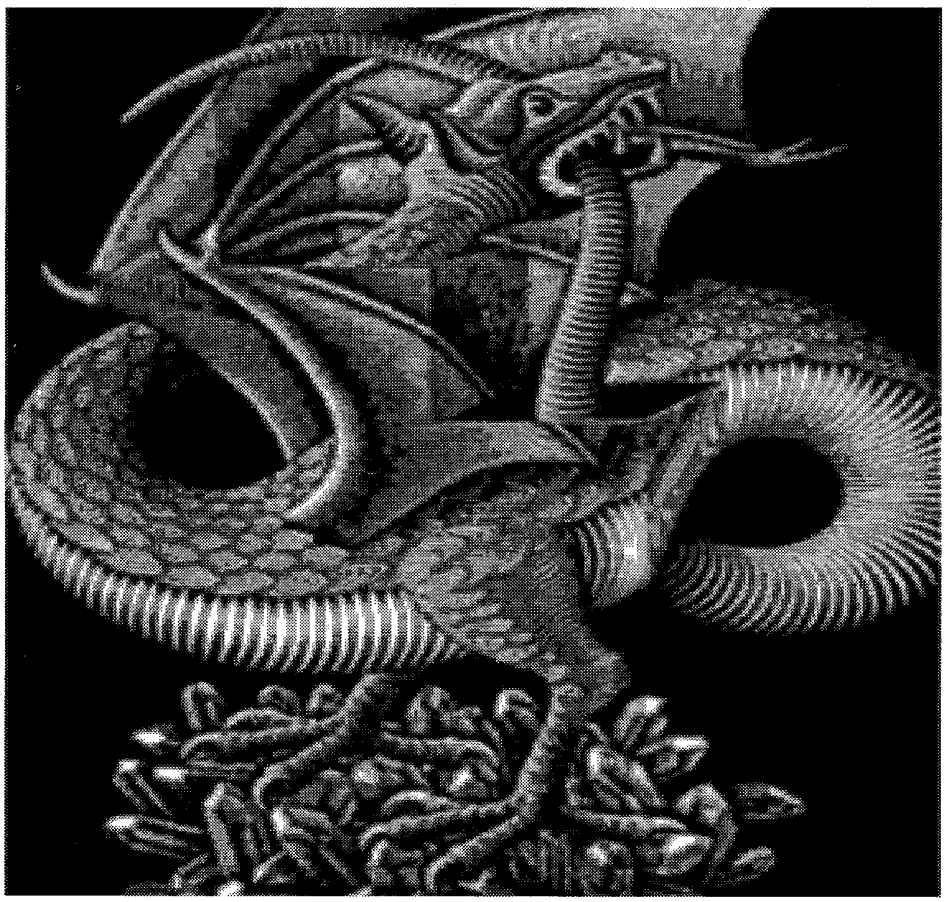
Book Review Corner...

Andy Kaiser

The book: The Boy who Reversed Himself
The author: William Sleator

A book about danger, humor, and romance in the fourth dimension. It's your average boy-meets-girl-while-being-chased-by-giant-three-eyed-monsters story. And despite the fact that I think the text was written for younger adults than me, this book was excellent. It's not what one might expect. A character is introduced who has the ability to move in the fourth dimension (4-D). And where most dimension-traveling books don't usually have an explanation of how the hero does his/her thing, William Sleator writes a completely accurate description about entering 4-D that even I understood. The book proves how it is made possible that our buddy "Moldy" [shown below] can do the seemingly impossible contortions he does so well.

Slightly reminiscent of Flatland, I'd recommend The Boy Who Reversed Himself to anybody who has aspirations of getting out of this flat three-dimensional world we live in. Give it a go. What's the worst that could happen?



Anonymous photo of the famous "Moldy" (Multidimensional Dragon) showing off. (Kids: Don't try this at home. Or at least ask your parents' permission first.)

Dead Cats and Other Neat Stuff

(This was picked up on the Internet by Tim Eisele... He thought it might be an interesting tidbit to share. He was right.)

Jay Paul Chawla

On the Oprah Winfrey TV show there was a discussion of a person who had investigated old Greek information about a room that was made to communicate with the dead. It consisted of a darkened room, a chair and mirror. The person wanting to communicate with some dead person was left in the chair and told to look at a mirror.

The key to the mirror method is that the earth is rotating, and therefore the light that bounces off the future-corpse of the person is accelerated to greater than the speed of light and travels backwards in time to be transmitted to the eye of the living viewer. Now, the future is just like the present except its waveform is not completely collapsed; therefore, the corpse of the viewer is NOT COMPLETELY DEAD so it can talk, albeit indistinctly.

The purpose of this discourse was to point out two limitations of the chair-and-mirror method. First, given the circumstances of viewing, the words of the dead are typically unenlightening -- some variation of "Watch out! If you stay in that chair doing nothing forever, you're going to die!" Second, and equally important if the space colonies are to have a quality of life sufficient to attract the majority of mankind and avert the imminent Overpopulation Armageddon, we need a method of talking with the dead that works in Space. The method presented above relies on the earth's rotation to supply the energy to enable the photons' reverse chronological flow; however, there is no rotation in Space. For these two reasons, mankind needs a new and completely different method for speaking with the dead. The most promising technique involves retroactive waveform expansion.

The technique is best explained by an elaboration on the gedanken experiment commonly known as Schrodinger's Cat. Schrodinger forgot to ask the key question, which comes at the end of the experiment: "What happens if you look in the chamber and find the cat dead, and then get so drunk that you forget what happened?" The answer is clearly that *the cat will return partially to life!* One can therefore interview the cat until one sobers up. Using this drunk interview method, investigators have awoken to discover shocking interviews with Hitler, Mao Tse Tung, and even Paul Bunyan.

A Little PFRC News

Andy Kaiser

..**Dan Butler-Ehle,** PFRC President, satellite dish owner, and guy with the trenchcoat, was bombarded with pennies during the PFRC meeting of November 6, 1993. Despite this flow of donations, PFRC is still in need of money for Nanocon expenses and the miscellaneous hydrogen explosion repair. (Dan was unbruised from his experience, though the pennies were reported frightened.)

...**Sandy Hubscher**, one of the two freshwomen members of PFRC, was given the unoffical position of "Sergeant at Limbs," following the meeting mentioned above. She was issued this illustrious title after she had proved she could physically maim several male PFRC members. Details are still sketchy, but this incident was apparently not done in self defence.

...**Tim Eisele**, former owner of a working car, slid off the road after leaving Dan's Halloween party. Luckily, several heroic PFRC members happened to pass him by and help push his car out of the ditch (after they pretended to drive by without seeing him, thus making a nifty practical joke). The state of Tim's car is still unknown, although recently Tim seems to have adopted a very loving attitude towards his bike.

...The Rocket has been found!!! After a grueling search by several dedicated PFRC members, O.O.P.S. (Oesterling's Overhead Personal Ship) was found. Confirmation of O.O.P.S.' identity was achieved when **Andy Kaiser**, at great personal risk and fear of heights, climbed a 40 foot tree to get O.O.P.S' remains. Actually, none of that was true... A farmer named **Bill Hyrkas** found it while hunting. Thank you Bill!

The Top Ten Favorite Activities of Capt. Jean-Luc Picard

10. Ordering Earl Grey tea from the computer, then smacking himself on the forehead and saying "I could've had a V-8!"
9. Yelling "Punchbuggy!" and hitting Riker's arm whenever he sees a shuttlecraft.
8. Screwing around in the holodeck when he ought to be on the bridge.
7. Spotlighting unsuspecting crewmembers with the glare from his forehead.
6. Lecturing everybody on why it's rude to fire phasers at other lifeforms.
5. Sending crank subspace messages to Starfleet Command asking if "Dick Hertz" is there.
4. Asking Beverly Crusher to come to his quarters so he can show her "a *real* Picard Maneuver."
3. Ticking off Romulan commanders during tense confrontations in the Neutral Zone by asking "Are those Bugle Boy jeans you're wearing?"
2. Telling crewmembers in a menacing, Dirty Harry voice, "Go ahead- Make it so."
1. Putting banana peels on the transporter pads just before an away team beams back up.

The editors would wish to thank... well, ourselves. It might be a little work publishing a newsletter, but it might be (just a little) fun, also.

If you would like to complain, send praise, or some form of monetary thanks (American money only, please), send mail to:

PFRC
125 Memorial Union Building
Houghton, MI, 49931

The Riot Act and it's affiliates are not in any way responsible for anything. Especially anything relating to what is written in the Riot Act. Readers are readers at their own risk. Any articles containing similarity to actual events or persons (living or dead) is probably not coincidental, but don't worry: we mean you no harm, and we come in peace. ("Peace" more or less anyway. Everyone is entitled to a little hell-raising.)